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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Chris Justice, Pastor of Lee Park Church in Monroe, NC.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Father in Heaven, Your Name is great. You are sovereign and holy. You offer Christ-centered salvation and peace. You are ever present in our time of need.

We thank You for the great gift of the United States of America. We ask You to protect, guide, and direct the Members of the U.S. Senate.

For all the issues that might divide us, I pray that Your Spirit would enlighten us and convict us to fulfill Your call to love one another as You have loved us.

May it be true that in all our ways we would acknowledge You so that You would make our paths straight. May it be true that we would desire and actively pursue that Your will be done and Your Kingdom come, on Earth now as it is in Heaven. May it be true that we would be careful to give You all the praise, honor, and glory due You.

We pray to You and we praise You in Jesus's Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). The Senator from North Carolina.

### WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome a constituent, the senior pastor of Lee Park Church in Monroe, NC, Chris Justice, to the Senate.

Chris's story is an inspiring one. In 2005, Chris was a well-known broadcaster on dual television stations in Charlotte, NC. In November of that year, Chris was called by the Lee Park Church, a congregation of 50 faithful, at which time he committed to be their pastor and to split his time between the church and being a broadcaster.

Chris kept that pace up for the next 3 years as he grew a church. He understood that God's calling was to the church and to service, not necessarily to broadcasting.

Let me just say that Pastor Chris has grown that church to a lively congregation that is involved in their community. His senior leadership there has provided the nurturing that is needed for a community to find their calling in life as part of that church. From the beginning of his career as a news anchor, Chris always wanted to give back and to be part of the community. He is surely doing that today.

Today, Pastor Chris continues to do so, and he has followed the simple strategy that remains the mission of the church—preach the word and love people. I think that sums up Pastor Chris—preach the word and love the people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of my colleague, the senior Senator from North Carolina. I welcome Pastor Chris, his lovely wife, and friends of the Steward family who came to visit this great Capitol and to grace us with his presence.

I will give you a different story. I have been to Lee Park. I was there for an annual event, and I was invited

there to be a pimento cheese judge. Let me warn you never to volunteer to taste 29 different varieties of pimento cheese.

Pastor Chris has said that they have refined the event now, but what struck me most about that event is how much the people who were at that event love Pastor Chris and love the Justice family.

You have done a great job in Monroe. We thank you for your service to the great citizens of the State. We thank you for your service to this great body today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, after much deliberation from both sides of the aisle, today we will complete our work on the Energy and Water appropriations bill. We know this bill is the result of a great deal of effort, research, and collaboration across the aisle. It passed out of the committee unanimously. It was subject to nearly two dozen amendments from both parties on the floor. As Senator ALEXANDER pointed out yesterday, we have clearly had an open process from the start that benefited both sides.

The energy security and water infrastructure bill is important for our country. We know it will support commerce, public safety, waterway infrastructure, energy innovation, and our nuclear deterrence posture.

We know it is important for the way forward on appropriations as well. Remember, following regular order—especially on the appropriations process—allows both Democratic and Republican Members to better represent their

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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